

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A printer for printing an image on an image receiving material provided on a backing material, said backing material having regularly spaced markings provided on the back thereof, said printer comprising:

~~means~~ a detector for detecting said markings; and

~~means~~ a device for determining at least one of a spacing between two markings and a width of a marking, comparing the determined marking width and/or spacing with a respective reference value and for causing printing to be stopped if at least one of the determined spacing and/or width differs from the respective reference value by more than a predetermined amount.

2. (Currently Amended) A printer as claimed in claim 1 wherein said ~~detecting~~ ~~means~~ detector comprises at least one of a light sensitive receiver and a light source.

3. (Original) A printer as claimed in claim 2, wherein said light sensitive receiver comprises a light emitting diode.

4. (Currently Amended) A printer as claimed in claim 2 ~~or~~ 3, wherein said light source comprises a light emitting diode.

5. (Currently Amended) A printer as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein said determining ~~means~~ device comprises a processor.

6. (Currently Amended) A printer as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein printing is stopped if the determined spacing differs from the respective reference value by 20% or more.

7. (Currently Amended) A printer as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein said determining ~~means are~~ device is arranged to cause an error message to be displayed if printing is stopped.

8. (Currently Amended) A printer as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 in combination with a PC.

9. (Currently Amended) A printer as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, where said reference value comprises a plurality of values defining a range.

10. (Currently Amended) In combination, a printer as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 and an image receiving material provided on a backing material with regularly spaced markings provided on the back of the backing material.

11. (Original) A combination as claimed in claim 10, wherein said image receiving material comprises one of continuous tape and die cut labels.

12. (Currently Amended) An image receiving material provided on a backing material with regularly spaced markings provided on the back of the backing material for use in a printer comprising ~~means~~ a detector for detecting said markings, ~~means~~ device for determining at least one of a spacing between two markings and a width of a marking, comparing the determined marking width and/or spacing with a respective reference value

and for causing printing to be stopped if at least one of the determined spacing and/or width differs from the respective reference value by more than a predetermined amount.

13. (Currently Amended) A printer system for printing an image on an image receiving material provided on a backing material, said backing material having regularly spaced markings provided on the back thereof, said printer system comprising:

~~means~~ a detector for detecting said markings; and

~~means~~ a device for determining at least one of a spacing between two markings and a width of a marking, comparing the determined marking width and/or spacing with a respective reference value and for causing printing to be stopped if at least one of the determined spacing and/or width differs from the respective reference value by more than a predetermined amount.

14. (Original) A printer system as claimed in claim 13 comprising a printer and a PC.

15. (Currently Amended) A printer for printing an image on a image receiving material provided on a backing material, said backing material having regularly spaced markings provided on the back thereof, said printer comprising:

~~means~~ a detector for detecting said markings; and

~~means~~ a transmitter for sending information relating to said detected marking to a computer for processing.

16. (Original) An image receiving material comprising a backing layer, said backing layer having on one side there of an image receiving layer comprising one of continuous material and die cut labels, and on the other side of the backing layer, regularly

spaced markings being provided, said regularly spaced markings being, in use, used to stop printing of a printer if the detected marking width and/or marking spacing differs from a respective reference value by more than a predetermined amount.